



**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

**Listing of the claims**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling messages in a communication system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message blocking request from a first mobile switching center (MSC) at a system control function component (SCF), the message blocking request identifying a second MSC; and preventing messages from being communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the SCF.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending a message blocking command to the second MSC.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of preventing is performed at the second MSC.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies a duration of a blocking period.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies at least one acceptance interval during a blocking period, the acceptance interval being a period during which at least one message may be communicated from the second MSC to the first MSC.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the message blocking request specifies an action to be taken by the second MSC instead of communicating a message from the second MSC to the first MSC.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the SCF may modify the action specified in the message blocking request.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the action includes communicating the message from the second MSC to a specified alternate destination.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)